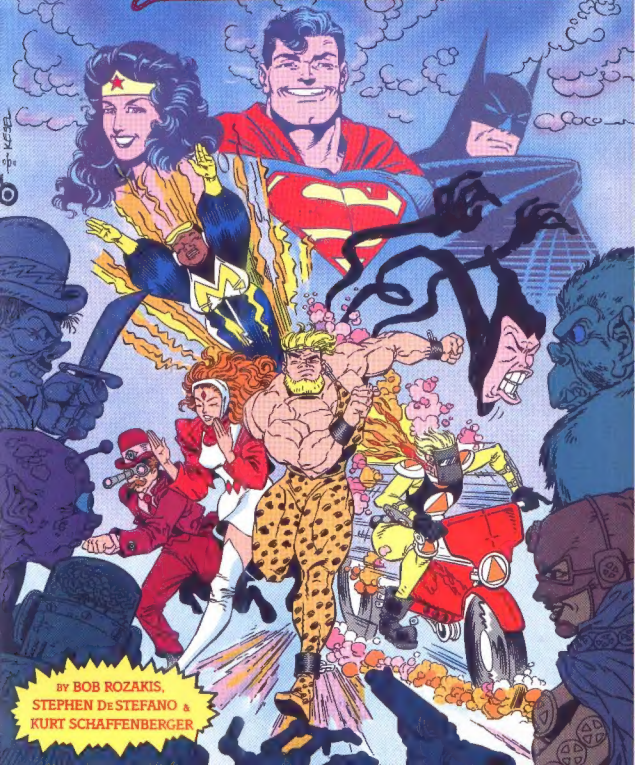


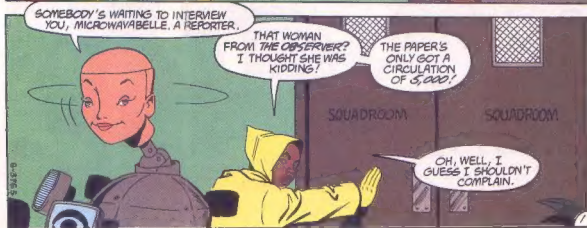
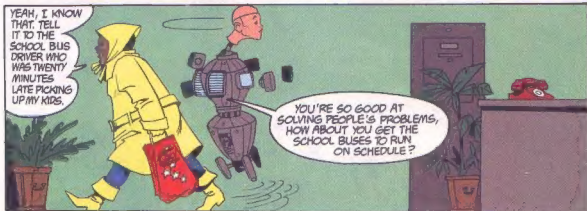
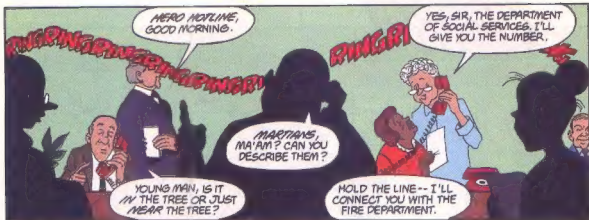

NEW FORMAT
MINI-SERIES
1 of 6
APR 89
US \$1.75
CAN \$2.25
UK £1

IN TROUBLE? WHO CAN YA CALL?!

HERO HOTLINE™



BY BOB ROZAKIS,
STEPHEN De STEFANO &
KURT SCHAFFENBERGER



HERO HOTLINE

Created by
BOB ROZAKIS & STEPHEN DE STEFANO

I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING...NOT
WITH ANY OF MY
LENSES

OF COURSE NOT! FRED IS
TOTALLY INVISIBLE! THAT
MEANS YOU CAN'T SEE HIM!

GOT A LIGHT,
BILLY?

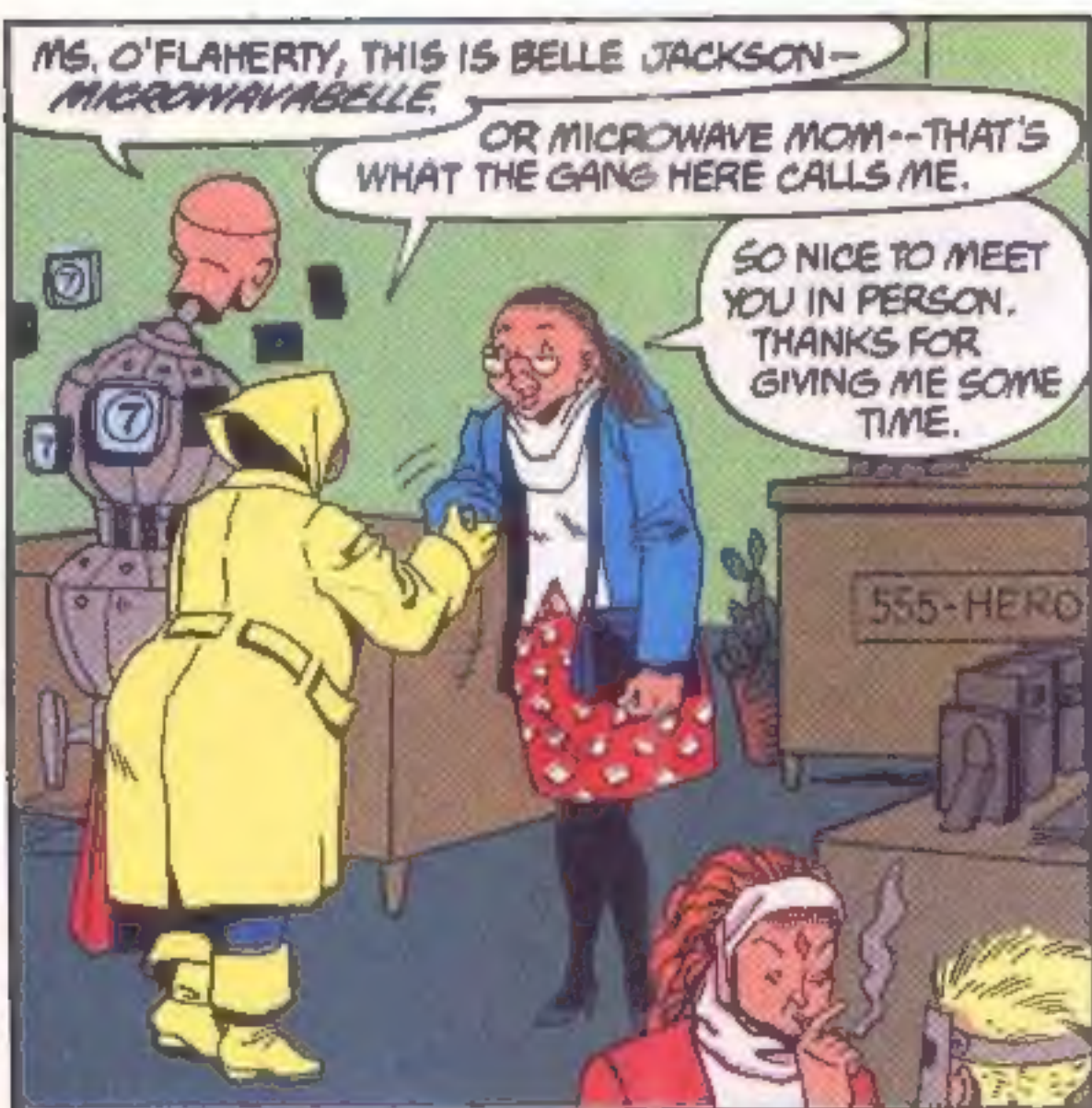
ALWAYS FOR YOU,
DI-- BUT I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE GOING TO
GIVE UP
SMOKING.

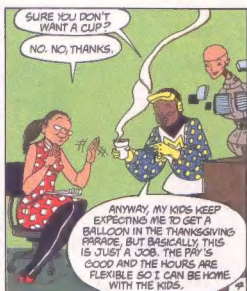
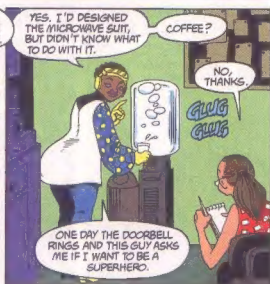
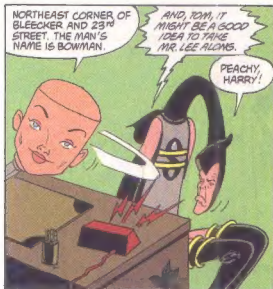
MORNING,
EVERYBODY.

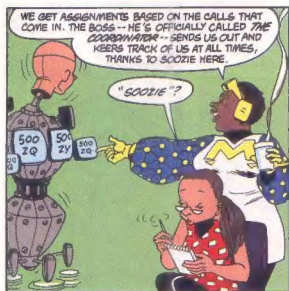
TOMORROW.

BOB ROZAKIS · SCRIPT AND COLORING / STEPHEN DE STEFANO AND KURT SCHAFFENBERGER ART
JOHN COSTANZA · LETTERING / BRIAN AUGUSTYN · EDITING

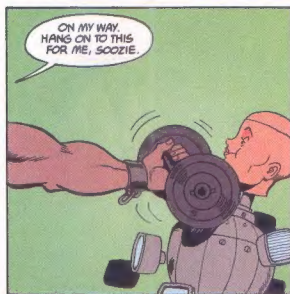
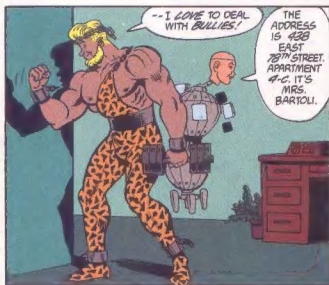
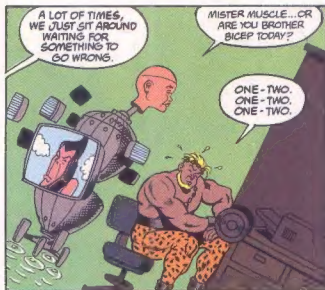
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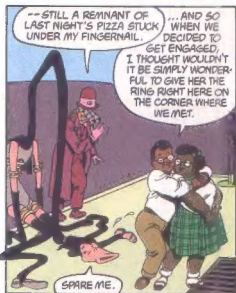
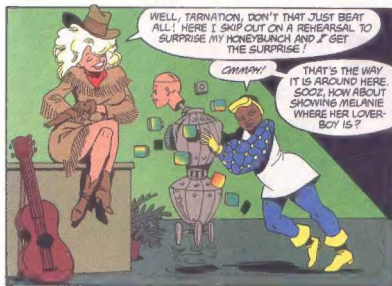
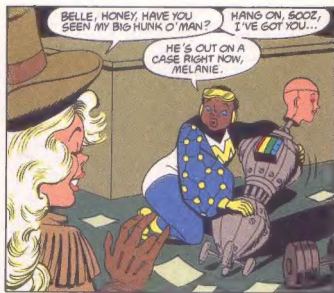


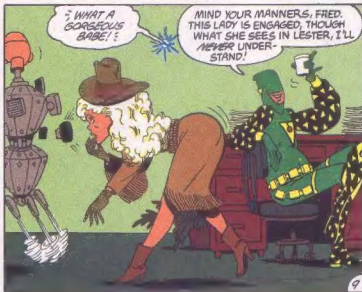
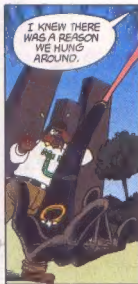


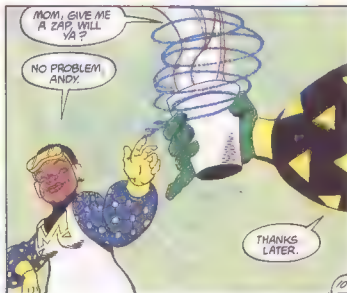
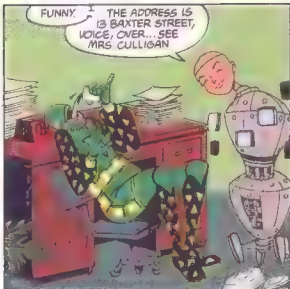


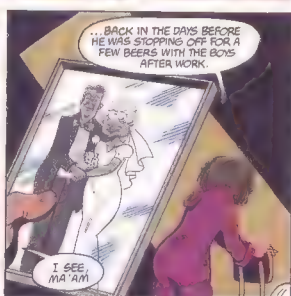
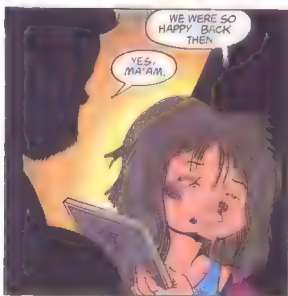
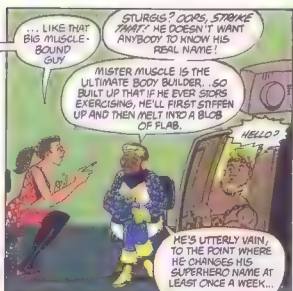
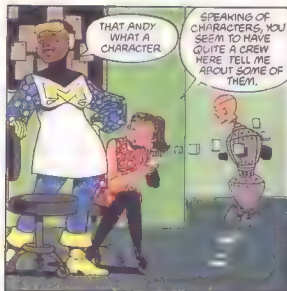


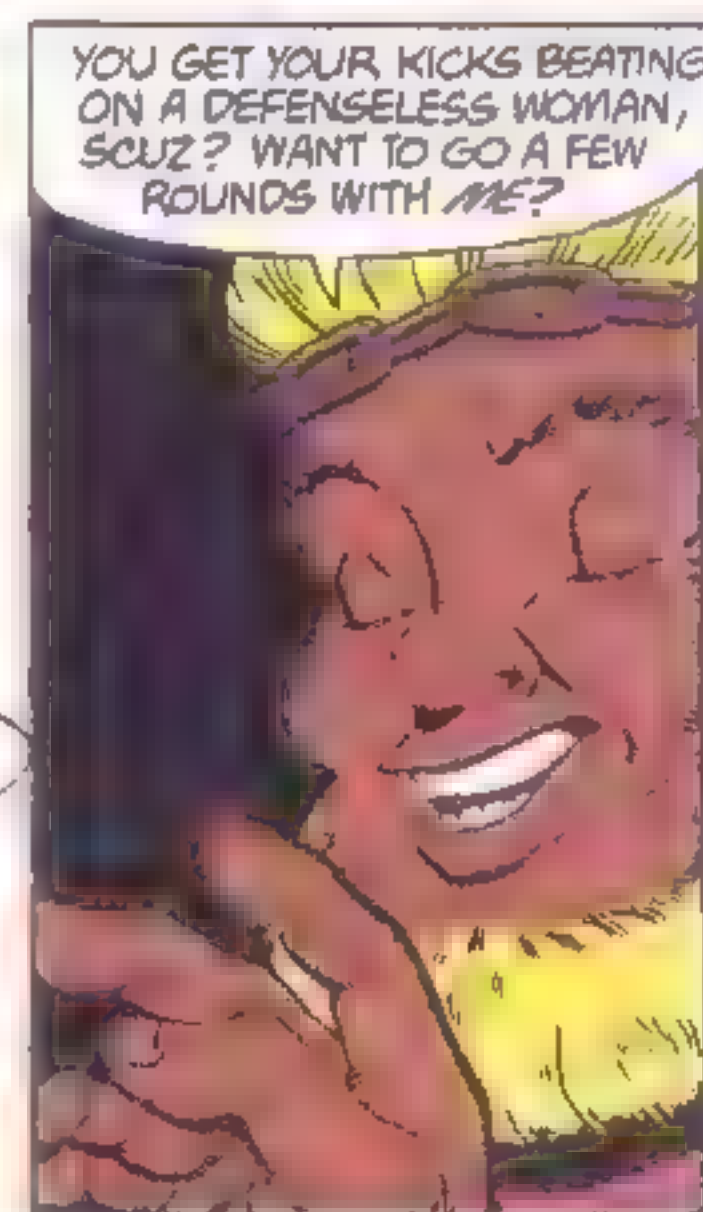


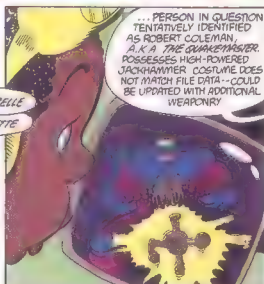
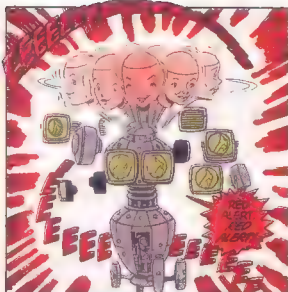
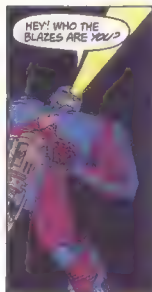


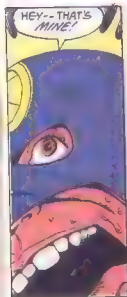
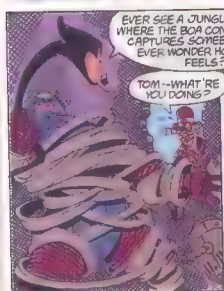
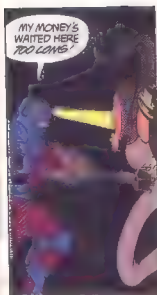




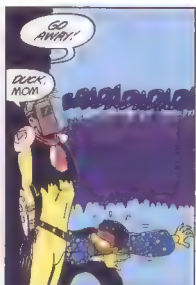
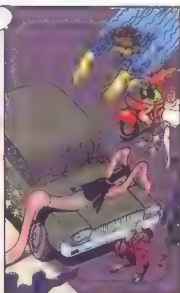
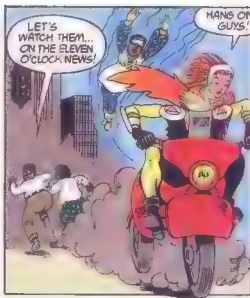








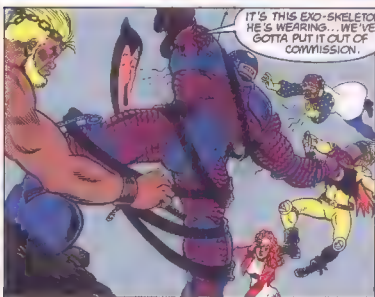
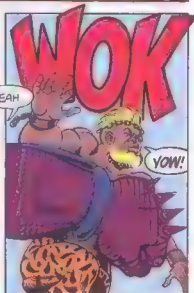
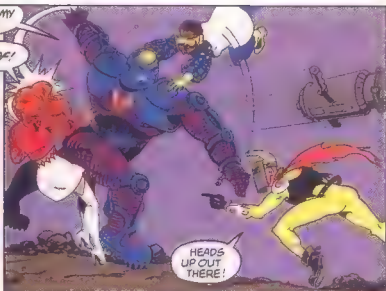
SO I DON'T EAT WHEATIES. SO SUE ME.

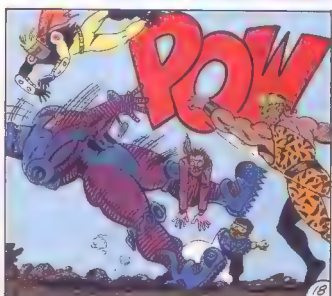


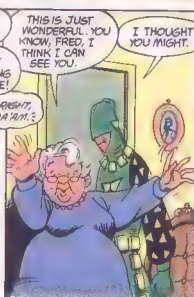
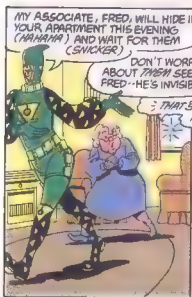
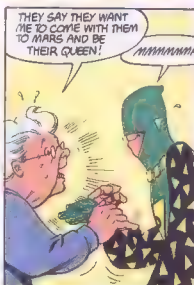
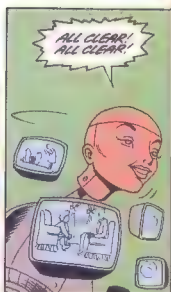
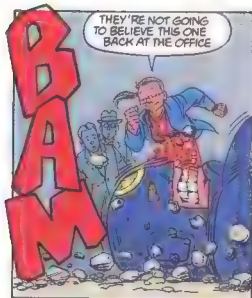


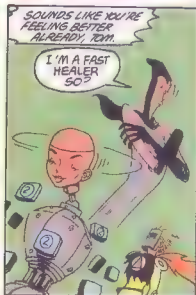
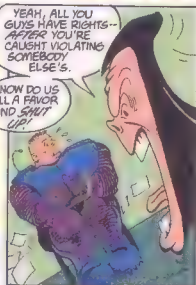
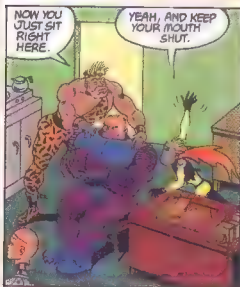
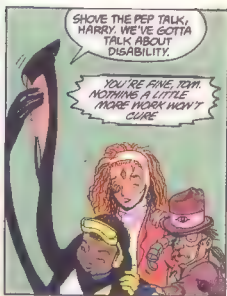
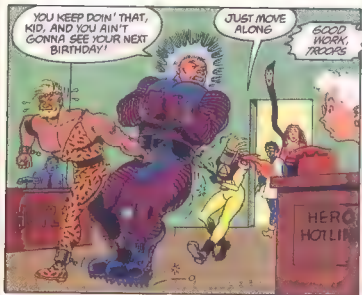
YOU BUSTED MY HAMMER!

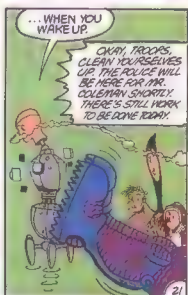
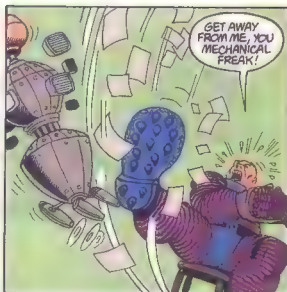
OOOF!











HERO HOTLINE

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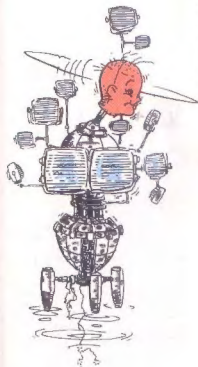
PAT CALDON Controller

L-3624

Welcome to the first issue of HERO HOTLINE. To give you some background information about the characters in the series, we've dug up writer

Bob Rozakis's notes from his original submission and illustrated them with some of artist Stephen DeStefano's original sketches:

HERO HOTLINE was set up as an organization that could handle calls for help that go beyond what the police and other government organizations can handle. It is funded by a number of public and private organizations. All the employees work regular shifts and receive salaries, overtime, and a benefits package. The Hero Hotline phone number is 1-800-555-HERO and phones are manned twenty-four hours a day.



SOOZ:

Name: 500Z-Q mobile computer/monitoring system

Powers: Multipurpose robot with variety of TV monitors and computer memory access; equipped with defensive weaponry

Background: Built or acquired by the Coordinator when he set up HH; acts as "floor manager" of the organization

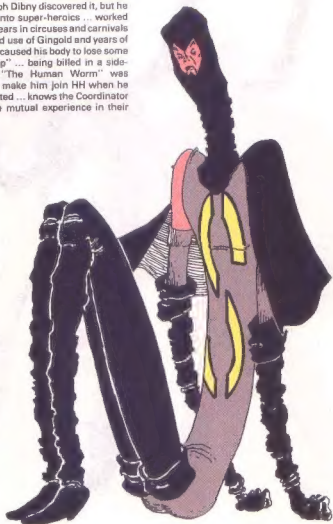
STRETCH:

Name: Thomas Longacre

Family: Wife Selma left him years ago to run away with a circus clown; daughter Eloise is an attorney

Powers: Stretching, ability to reshape his body

Background: Stretch was using Gingold before Ralph Dibny discovered it, but he never got into super-heroics ... worked for many years in circuses and carnivals ... extended use of Gingold and years of stretching caused his body to lose some of its "snap" ... being billed in a side-show as "The Human Worm" was enough to make him join HH when he was recruited ... knows the Coordinator from some mutual experience in their past...



THE COORDINATOR

Name: Unrevealed. He is called "Boss" by everyone except Stretch, who calls him "Harry".

Background: Was a super-hero at some time in the past but was injured or lost his powers ... is on a first-name basis with heroes like Batman and Green Lantern ... his office contains multiple viewcreens so that he can monitor all HH operations at once ... he determines which calls need HH attention and which heroes will handle them...

VOICE-OVER:

Name: Andrew P. Greenwald

Family: None

Powers: Ability to mimic any voice or sound; expert ventriloquist

Background: Always in need of extra money ... always trying to pick up attractive women ... something of a con man...



DIAMONDETTE:

Name: Diana Theotocopoulos

Powers: Can make her hands hard as diamonds, capable of slicing through anything

Background: Took the job at HH to pay her way through medical school ... wants to be the first surgeon to operate without the need of a scalpel ... chain smoker...



FRED:

Name: Fred

Powers: Invisible, intangible

Background: There is some question as to whether Fred exists or is merely a vocal creation of Voice-Over...

INVISIBLE FRED

(he... he... o... ???)



HOTSHOT:

Name: William "Billy" Lefferts

Family: Mother Irma, who expects him to be "president of the Justice League ... or something"

Powers: Shoots fireballs of varying temperature from his fingers

Background: Did not really want to become a super-hero ... took the job to make his mother happy and "because it was easier than cooking hamburgers at Burger King" ... infatuated with Diamondette, though she is some years older than he is...



MICROWAVABELLE (or MICROWAVE MOM):

Name: Belle Jackson

Family: Husband Martin killed when he walked into a liquor store during a holdup; daughters Naomi and Ruthie, son Dwight.

Powers: Like a microwave oven, is able to generate heat in objects, but is shorted out by anything metallic

Background: Left a widow with three children in elementary school, Belle was able to put the portable microwave generation system she'd invented to good use as member of HH... her children come first in every case...

THE OPERATORS:

Like the workers in a telethon, the operators answer all calls coming in. They are trained to screen the calls, re-directing those that can be handled better by other agencies and dismissing those that do not require outside intervention. All remaining requests are passed on to the Coordinator, who makes the final decisions.

THE NIGHT CREW:

When the day team goes home, the night crew comes in. Members of the Night Crew include Zeep the Living Sponge, Chlorino, Marie the Talking Turtle, and Thunderhead.

PRIVATE EYES:

Name: Lester W. Lee

Family: Fiancée Melanie Boulder, world-famous country/western singer

Powers: Private detective with variety of vision powers (x-ray, telescopic, microscopic) built into his lenses

Background: Started dating Melanie after he rescued her from a man who had locked her in a meat locker... very cerebral, not much good in physical combat... oftentimes so wrapped up in the microcosm of his world that he ignores the reality around him...



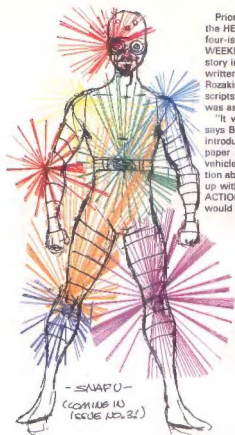
MR. MUSCLE (or FLEX or MR. MIGHTY or BROTHER BICEP):

Name: Sturgis Butterfield

Family: Wife Marie

Powers: Superior strength and muscle tone

Background: A bodybuilder gone to the extreme... concerned at all times about his image, constantly changing his super-hero name when a new one strikes his fancy... his head can easily be turned by an attractive and/or helpless woman...



Prior to their appearance in this issue, the HERO HOTLINE cast was seen in a four-issue preview in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY (#637-640 to be exact). But the story in this issue was the first actually written and drawn. In fact, writer Bob Rozakis had already completed the scripts for the first three issues when he was asked to do a "prequel" for ACW.

"It was something of a challenge," says Bob. "We had done HH #1 as an introduction of the cast, using the newspaper reporter interviewing Mom as a vehicle for giving the readers information about the characters. I had to come up with a way to do the same thing in ACTION, but not detract from what would be appearing here.

"Ultimately, I decided to take the preview six months back in time to the day Hotshot first joined the team. It gave us a different way to introduce the rest of the cast as well as fill in some background on the characters." One of the situations resolved in the prequel was the capture of the holdup man who had shot Microwavabelle's husband. Another bit of background was showing how Private Eyes and Melanie Boulder met.

"If you missed those issues of ACW," says Bob, "rush down to your local comics shop and pick them up. But, more important, we hope you enjoyed this issue and will stay with us for the duration."

And while you're waiting, drop us a letter and tell us what you think of HERO HOTLINE. We love to get mail.

NEXT IN HERO HOTLINE:

Microwavabelle takes a very personal interest in a bus hijacking—Hotshot's mother has a few things to say when he's assigned to the Night Crew—Voice-Over and Fred discover the Martians have been visiting—Mr. Muscle gets sued—Private Eyes goes searching for a lost will ... and Stretch gets a cat out of a tree.

Plus: Editor Brian Augustyn fills our text pages with biographies of the series' creative team—biographies "...based on absolutely no research!"

And: We'll try to find more new ways to misspell "Stephen DeStefano"!

